A ESTRADA DE VOLTA

THE WALKING DEAD

KIRKMAN ADLARD GAUDIANO RATHBURN

image

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image

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IMAGE COMICS APRESENTA

THE WALKING DEAD™

187: A ESTRADA DE VOLTA

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ANTERIORMENTE:

Dwight é libertado da cadeia, mais determinado que nunca a perturbar o equilíbrio do poder na Comunidade. Mas quando Michonne convoca uma reunião para desarmar a situação com Dwight e Rick, ela os surpreende com a Governadora Milton, que agrava a situação ordenando a prisão de Dwight. Dwight puxa uma arma, e Rick rapidamente percebe que não tem como convencer Dwight, e atira na cabeça dele. Agora Rick não apenas culpa Michonne pelo jeito de ela lidar com a situação, mas se preocupa que ele tenha escolhido o lado errado neste conflito.

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DIGITAL EDITION.

EU GOSTARIA DE AGRADECER A TODOS VOCÊS POR SE REUNIREM TÃO BREVEMENTE.

QUERIA ESTAR AQUI PARA CONTAR BOAS NOTÍCIAS.

ACHO QUE TODOS ESTAMOS CIENTES DAS ***TENSÕES*** QUE TEM OCORRIDO EM NOSSA COMUNIDADE NAS ÚLTIMAS SEMANAS.

TENHO ME PREOCUPADO QUE AS COISAS ESTIVESSEM SAINDO DE ORDEM. INFELIZMENTE, NOITE PASSADA, MEUS RECEIOS FORAM ***CONFIRMADOS.***

SEI COMO A NOTÍCIA SE ESPALHA RÁPIDO AQUI E COMO AS COISAS PODEM SE DISTORCER. CONVOQUEI ESTA REUNIÃO PARA EVITAR ISTO.

ENTÃO DEIXE-ME SER O MAIS CLARA POSSÍVEL.

NO INÍCIO DA ÚLTIMA NOITE, HOUVE UMA TENTATIVA DE ASSASSINATO...

...E *RICK GRIMES* SALVOU MINHA VIDA.

O PRETENSO ASSASSINO FOI DWIGHT, UM MEMBRO DO GRUPO DE RICK. ELE ERA UM INDIVÍDUO PERTURBADO QUE NÃO ENTENDIA CERTOS ELEMENTOS DO NOSSO MODO DE VIDA. A OBSESSÃO DELE POR NÓS FERMENTOU UMA *ESCURIDÃO* QUE ESTAVA BROTANDO DENTRO DELE POR ALGUM TEMPO.

NÃO QUERO QUE AS AÇÕES DELE SEJAM USADAS CONTRA RICK OU O RESTO DO PESSOAL DELE. ELES AINDA SÃO BEM-VINDOS AQUI, ASSIM COMO QUALQUER UM QUE ENCONTRAMOS.

PARA ESTE FIM, EU PEDI QUE RICK DISSESSE ALGUMAS PALAVRAS.

POVO DA COMUNIDADE, EIS AQUI MEU *SALVADOR*, RICK GRIMES.

OBRIGADO, GOVERNADORA MILTON.

EU, UH... NÃO SEI BEM O QUE DIZER...

SEI QUE SÃO TEMPOS DIFÍCEIS, ATÉ *DOLOROSOS* PARA ALGUNS. LINHAS FORAM TRAÇADAS EM SUA COMUNIDADE, E O POVO ESTÁ COMEÇANDO A TOMAR LADOS.

ACREDITEM EM MIM QUANDO DIGO QUE SEI OS RISCOS QUE PODEM ESTAR À FRENTE. PELA MINHA PARTE, PLANEJO FAZER O QUE PUDER PARA AJUDAR A ENCONTRAR UMA SOLUÇÃO *PACÍFICA* PARA TODA INQUIETAÇÃO FERMENTANDO NA COMUNIDADE.

MAGNA, MANDOU ME CHAMAR?

OH, SIDDIQ.

SIM, MANDEI. POR FAVOR, ENTRE.

PRECISO QUE VOCÊ VOLTE À COMUNIDADE.

O QUE? *POR QUE?*

QUERO SABER O QUE ESTÁ HAVENDO. SINTO COMO SE ELES JÁ DEVESSEM TER VOLTADO A ESSA ALTURA, E ESTOU *PREOCUPADA.*

O PROBLEMA É QUE NÃO TENHO MUITAS PESSOAS SOBRANDO AQUI, ENTÃO PRECISO QUE VOCÊ VÁ ATÉ HILLTOP. TENHO CERTEZA QUE MAGGIE PODE CEDER ALGUMAS PESSOAS PARA TE ACOMPANHAR.

SIM, POSSO FAZER ISSO, TOTALMENTE.

QUANDO QUER QUER EU VÁ?

AGORA.

GLORY

O QUE ESTÁ FAZENDO AQUI?

DESCULPA, EU, HUM, DEIXEI ALGUMAS COISAS AQUI E PRECISAVA PEGÁ-LAS DE VOLTA. EU INVADI TOTALMENTE. NÃO QUERO ENCOBRIR ISSO. DESCULPE.
ESPERO QUE ENTENDA.
ESTÁ DEIXANDO A COMUNIDADE?

É, VEJA, NÃO ME DOU TÃO BEM QUANDO AS COISAS FICAM FEIAS E COM TUDO ACONTECENDO, ESTÁ BEM CLARO QUE AS COISAS VÃO FICAR FEIAS AQUI POR UM TEMPO.
ENTÃO EU *REALMENTE* PRECISO NÃO ESTAR AQUI.
TUDO BEM. MEIO QUE SINTO COMO SE EU MERECESSE UMA EXPLICAÇÃO MELHOR QUE ESSA, MAS TUDO BEM.
-AFF-
SENTA AÍ.

EU TIVE UMA VIDA DIFÍCIL.

É, EU SEI. *"QUEM NÃO TEVE?"*, NÉ?

MAS QUERO DIZER *ANTES* DE TUDO ISSO.

MEU PAI FOI EMBORA QUANDO EU ERA JOVEM... O QUE FOI UMA *DROGA*... *BEM RUIM*. DEPOIS, QUANDO EU TINHA DEZ, MINHA MÃE CASOU DE NOVO, E O CARA TROUXE MEU MEIO-IRMÃO COM ELE.

ELE JÁ ERA QUASE UM ADULTO... ENTÃO DE REPENTE TINHA ESSES DOIS *HOMENS* SE MUDANDO COM MINHA MÃE E EU.

AS COISAS *PIORARAM* A PARTIR DAÍ.

EU NÃO ERA O QUE SE CHAMA DE CRIANÇA MODELO... EU APRONTAVA, MUITO. TER UM NOVO PADRASTO COM TODO TIPO DE REGRAS NOVAS E ESQUISITAS NÃO AJUDAVA.

EU ERA MUITO CASTIGADA.

MAS NÃO DE FORMA NORMAL...

ELES TRABALHAVAM JUNTOS, MINHA NOVA FAMÍLIA FORÇADA, OS DOIS... ELES ME AMARRAVAM, ME PRENDIAM EM UM... ARMÁRIO.

ELES ME DEIXAVAM LÁ POR HORAS... ÀS VEZES... EU MIJAVA NAS CALÇAS....

ISSO DEIXAVA ELES *MAIS* ZANGADOS...

ELES REVEZAVAM ME *ESPANCANDO* ... QUANDO UM CANSAVA, O OUTRO ASSUMIA.

MINHA MÃE, ELA PARECIA NÃO SE IMPORTAR... ELA SÓ ESTAVA FELIZ POR NÃO ESTAR MAIS SÓ.

EU NÃO ME IMPORTO EM ESTAR SÓ.

ENTÃO ESSA... ERA MINHA VIDA... MINHA VIDA ***INTEIRA***, ATÉ TUDO ***ISTO*** ACONTECER... O QUE É PIOR, VOU ADMITIR...

ISSO MUDA AS COISAS, CRESCER ASSIM. ONDE A MAIORIA DAS PESSOAS VÊ UM HOMEM... EU VEJO UM MONSTRO MALIGNO. MUITO ANTES DOS HOMENS COMEÇAREM A REALMENTE MORRER E VOLTAR COMO MONSTROS MALIGNOS.

FOI DIFÍCIL, COM VOCÊ...VER VOCÊ COMO ALGO NÃO MALIGNO...MAS NAQUELE MOMENTO DEPOIS DE MATARMOS TODOS AQUELES MORTOS, VOCÊ ERA UM HERÓI.

ENTÃO...PORQUE ***ASSIM*** FOI MINHA VIDA POR ***TANTO*** TEMPO... NÃO DEIXO AS TREVAS ENTRAREM EM MINHA VIDA SE EU PUDER EVITAR.

É POR ISSO QUE TENTO SER ANIMADA...SE SOU ALEGRE, PARECE FAZER OS OUTROS RELAXAREM UM POUCO E...SEREM FELIZES.

É POR ISSO QUE NÃO POSSO FICAR AQUI PARA ISTO. SE AS COISAS PIORAREM... OU PARECEM QUE VÃO PIORAR... NÃO SOU COMO MINHA MÃE.

EU PREFIRO ESTAR ***SOZINHA.***

ENTÃO...ESTÁ ***PARTINDO?***

ESTOU.

ALGUMA COISA QUE EU POSSA FAZER PARA TE CONVENCER DO CONTRÁRIO?

EU ACHO QUE NÃO.

NÃO. SINTO MUITO.

VOCÊ FOI LEGAL, MAS... NÃO.

QUASE ISSO. EU MAL ME LEMBRO DE MINHA MÃE REAL A ESTA ALTURA. BEM, NÃO É JUSTO DIZER ISSO. ME LEMBRO DELA, MAS TODAS ESSAS LEMBRANÇAS ESTÃO LIGADAS A TANTA DOR QUE EU MEIO QUE AS BLOQUEIO.

ENTÃO SIM, MAGGIE TEM SIDO UMA MÃE PARA MIM PELO QUE PARECE SER A MAIOR PARTE DE MINHA VIDA..TODAS AS PARTES QUE ME IMPORTO EM LEMBRAR, PELO MENOS.

É, ISSO É LEGAL. NÃO CONSIGO ACREDITAR QUE É SUA MÃE QUEM COMANDA ESTE LUGAR INTEIRO.

DESCULPA, EU NÃO QUERIA TRAZER LEMBRANÇAS RUINS. NÃO É EXATAMENTE UMA ÓTIMA CONVERSA PARA PRIMEIRO ENCONTRO.

ESTÁ BRINCANDO? MEUS PAIS E EU ESTAMOS NA ESTRADA SOZINHOS PELOS ÚLTIMOS DOIS ANOS. ANTES DE CHEGARMOS AQUI, ESTÁVAMOS TÃO DESESPERADOS, IRÍAMOS VIVER COM AS PESSOAS QUE USAVAM PELE COMO MÁSCARAS.

SE NÃO FALARMOS SOBRE LEMBRANÇAS TRISTES, O QUE ***MAIS*** TEM PARA FALAR?

ORA, SE NÃO É VERDADE.

ENTÃO ME CONTE, QUE TIPO DE MERDA HORRÍVEL ACONTECEU COM VOCÊ ANTES DE VOCÊ E SEUS PAIS CHEGAREM AQUI?

O QUE TE FAZ SORRIR ASSIM?

É A SOPHIA.

AH É? SOPHIA TE FAZ SORRIR AGORA?

O QUE?! NÃO. NÃO DESSE JEITO.

NÃO FOI O QUE QUIS DIZER.

ELA ESTÁ BEM SOLITÁRIA ULTIMAMENTE. MAS ESTÁ NUM ENCONTRO COM AQUELE NOVO GAROTO-- JOSH. ELES PARECEM ESTAR SE DIVERTINDO.

ESTOU *FELIZ* POR ELA.

VOCÊ AMA ELA, NÃO É?

SIM. AMO. COMO *AMIGA*.

POR FAVOR, LYDIA...NÃO ENTENDA ERRADO. O QUE TENHO COM VOCÊ... É *DIFERENTE*.

É *ESPECIAL*.

É?

SOPHIA E EU CRESCEMOS JUNTOS. ALGUMAS DE MINHAS MAIS ANTIGAS LEMBRANÇAS ERA BRINCANDO COM ELA... ME ESCONDENDO COM ELA.

EXISTE UMA LIGAÇÃO QUE NÃO POSSO NEGAR... MAS É ***AMIZADE***, OK?

O QUE VOCÊ E EU TEMOS... EU NUNCA PODERIA TER COM SOPHIA. HÁ UMA ESCURIDÃO EM MIM QUE SEI QUE ESTÁ LÁ. SEI DAS COISAS QUE FIZ...

...DAS VIDAS QUE TIREI... DA DOR QUE CAUSEI. TIVE QUE FAZER COISAS TERRÍVEIS PARA ME VIRAR. O MESMO QUE VOCÊ.

EU OLHO PARA VOCÊ, E VEJO O QUE VOCÊ FEZ, MAS NÃO ME IMPORTO...AO INVÉS, EU VEJO O ***BEM*** EM VOCÊ. O MESMO COMIGO. VOCÊ SABEM QUEM SOU, O QUE FIZ... VOCÊ AINDA VÊ... A ***MIM***.

HÁ UMA ***COMPREENSÃO*** ENTRE NÓS... PORQUE...

...SOMOS ***AMBOS*** MONSTROS.

ACHA QUE SOU UM...

...MONSTRO?

LYDIA, POR FAVOR.

SLAM!

SHUNK!

SHUNK!

SHAKK!

BLAM!

ESTÁ TUDO BEM, MERCER?

=HUFF.=

=HUFF.=

=HUFF.=

O QUE VOCÊ *QUER?*

SEI QUE NÃO NOS CONHECEMOS, MAS NÃO POSSO EVITAR NOTAR QUE PARECE QUE VOCÊ TEM MUITA ENERGIA PARA POR PRA FORA...

O QUE?

SE ESTÁ ZANGADO SOBRE QUÃO FODIDAS ESTÃO AS COISAS POR AQUI, ENTÃO PARECERIA QUE AMBOS ESTAMOS FRUSTADOS PELA *MESMA COISA.*

ALGUM INTERESSE EM DAR UM BOM USO PARA ESTA FRUSTRAÇÃO?

...

TALVEZ.

SEI QUE NÃO É O BASTANTE, MAS SINTO MUITO.

COMETI UM ***ERRO***. QUERO QUE SAIBA QUE SEI DISSO.

MAS ISSO NÃO VAI TRAZER DWIGHT DE VOLTA, *VAI?*

POSSO SENTAR?

ESTOU SENTAN-DO.

EU CRIEI UMA SITUAÇÃO RUIM. ISSO É VERDADE. MAS VOCÊ NÃO PODE JOGAR AS AÇÕES DE DWIGHT PARA CIMA DE MIM, OU PELO MENOS NÃO ***DEVERIA***.

AQUELE HOMEM ERA UMA BOMBA-RELÓGIO PARA DIZER O MÍNIMO. ELA JÁ TINHA PIRADO NA BATATINHA NO DIA ANTERIOR. AS COISAS SÓ CONTINUAVAM ***AGRA-VANDO*** COM ELE.

PARECE ME LEMBRAR QUE NÃO FAZ MUITO TEMPO QUANDO VOCÊ ESTEVE DO OUTRO LADO DA PIS-TOLA DELE. ENTÃO ESTOU DIZENDO QUE SINTO UM ***PADRÃO***, E EU NÃO FUI UMA GRANDE PARTE DISSO.

SINTO MUITO.

O QUE? NÃO ACHEI QUE OUVIRIA ISSO.

UM HOMEM ESTÁ MORTO, MICHONNE.

E ESTOU DIZENDO QUE ISSO FOI *INEVITÁVEL.*

AQUELE CARA ESTAVA *MUITO* ALÉM DO TERCEIRO STRIKE.

EU VIM PARA ESTA MESA PARA ME LEMBRAR DE COMO AS COISAS SÃO DIFERENTES, QUÃO LONGE ESSAS PESSOAS CHEGARAM, E O QUANTO ESTÁ EM RISCO.

NÓS ENCONTRAMOS NOVAS PESSOAS E NOS MUDAMOS PARA NOVOS LUGARES ANTES, E ISSO TROUXE CONFLITO, MAS NUNCA HOUVE *NADA* ASSIM.

ENTÃO SE PAREÇO QUE ESTOU SENDO *MUITO DURO* OU SE NÃO ESTOU SENDO EU MESMO, É PORQUE EU JÁ SINTO O PESO DESTE LUGAR SOBRE MEUS OMBROS. NÃO QUERO FERRAR O QUE ELES TEM AQUI.

SE PUDÉSSEMOS FAZER AS COISAS FUNCIONAR AQUI, ENTÃO ESTAMOS NA ESTRADA DE VOLTA AO NORMAL.

OK, TUDO ISSO DE VOLTA PARA VOCÊ...

...PORQUE ACHO QUE ESTÁ *CERTO.*

SÓ ESTOU DIZENDO, SE DANTE PODE ARRANJAR UMA MULHER COMO MAGGIE, ISSO ME DÁ ESPERANÇA.

EI, O QUE--

PARE BEM AÍ!

EDUARDO?! SOU EU! SIDDIQ!

EU SINALIZEI ANTES DE ME APROXIMAR. NÃO ESTAVAM OLHANDO?!

SIM.

DESCULPA, CARA. ENTRE.

MAS QUE DROGA, CARA? PENSEI QUE ESTIVESSE OLHANDO.

NÃO SEI. AS COISAS ESTÃO TÃO TRANQUILAS ULTIMAMENTE... ACHO QUE ESTOU DESTREINADO.

CONCORDO COM MAGNA. ESTOU MUITO PREOCUPADA QUE NÃO TENHO NENHUMA NOTÍCIA DE RICK DESDE QUE ELE FOI PARA A COMUNIDADE, ENTÃO GOSTARIA DE PEDIR A ALGUNS DE VOCÊS PARA ACOMPANHAR SIDDIQ NA VIAGEM DELE.

NÃO SEI PARA O QUE ESTOU ENVIANDO VOCÊS, ENTÃO ESTOU TORNANDO ISTO ***COMPLETAMENTE*** VOLUNTÁRIO. SE ALGUM DE VOCÊS ESTIVER DISPOSTO A--

EU GOSTARIA DE--

É, UH--

NÓS GOSTARÍAMOS DE IR.

EU PASSEI MINHA PARCELA DE DIAS ATRÁS DA MURALHA. SINTO COMO SE EU FOSSE ÚTIL LÁ FORA, ENTÃO TAMBÉM GOSTARIA DE VOLUNTARIAR MEUS SERVIÇOS.

ISSO É, É CLARO, SE VOCÊ PUDER SUPORTAR FICAR LONGE DE MIM.

EU VOU DAR ALGUM JEITO.

QUE DUREZA.

SIDDIQ, CONHECE O ESQUEMA DA COMUNIDADE E A SEGURANÇA DELES. É POSSÍVEL OBSERVÁ-LOS DE UMA DISTÂNCIA SEGURA?

SÓ ESPERO PODERMOS MANTER ISTO O MAIS SIMPLES POSSÍVEL.

ELES SÃO UM ASSENTAMENTO BEM ABERTO. SE ISSO MUDOU DE REPENTE, SABEREMOS QUE ALGO OCORREU.

OK, ENTÃO. ESSE É O PLANO. CAVALGUEM, DEEM UMA OLHADA. SE AS COISAS PARECEREM OK, CONFIRAM. SE AS COISAS FOREM MAL, VOLTEM AQUI DEPRESSA.

DE FORMA SIMPLES.

OK, LEGAL.

VAMOS COMEÇAR COM NOSSOS ADELIS.

CUIDE-SE LÁ FORA.

SERÁ MINHA PRIORIDADE *NÚMERO UM.*

SE HÁ ALGUMA CHANCE DE MEU PAI ESTAR EM APUROS, EU VOU.

E ISSO É TUDO.

SE SEU PAI ESTIVER EM APUROS, A ÚLTIMA COISA QUE ELE IRIA QUERER SERIA QUE EU TE ENVIASSE PARA ESSE PROBLEMA.

ACHO MESMO QUE VOCÊ DEVIA FICAR AQUI.

A MENOS QUE VÁ ME AMARRAR E ME TRANCAR, EU VOU.

ENTÃO, VOCÊ VAI ME AMAR-RAR?

NÃO.

ESTÁ PARTINDO?

ESTOU.

OK.

LYDIA, ESPERE--

VOCÊ OLHOU PARA MIM...VOCÊ FOI A ÚNICA QUE PODE OLHAR PARA MIM. VOCÊ É O MOTIVO DE EU TER PARADO DE ESCONDER MEU FERIMENTO. O MOTIVO DE TODOS PODEREM OLHAR PARA ELE AGORA.

VOCÊ ME DEU CONFIANÇA DE SER EU MESMO.

DEPOIS DE TUDO QUE AMBOS FIZEMOS, O QUE NOS TORNAMOS A FIM DE SOBREVIVER... NÃO SEI, É... EU ÀS VEZES ME PREOCUPO QUE AS PESSOAS NOS VEJAM COMO ***MONSTROS.***

MAS SOMOS MONSTROS QUE VEEM ATRAVÉS DA FEIURA DENTRO UM DO OUTRO... E VEMOS QUEM AMBOS ***REALMENTE*** SOMOS... E ISSO... ME FAZ ME SENTIR ***NORMAL.***

FICO FELIZ SENDO ESSE TIPO DE MONSTRO PRA VOCÊ.

QUE DIA DE MERDA.

PARECE QUE É TUDO QUE TEMOS ULTIMA-MENTE.

ALGUÉM TEM TEVE UM DIA HOJE?

NÃO? ACHO QUE NÃO.

NEM EU.

ALGUM DE VOCÊS PODE SE LEMBRAR DE SEU ÚLTIMO DIA BOM? SEI QUE TEMOS ALGO BOM AQUI NA COMUNI-DADE... SEI QUE É MELHOR QUE QUALQUER COISA QUE TÍNHAMOS ANTES DE CHEGARMOS AQUI.

MAS NÃO VEEM O QUÃO ***MELHOR*** ESTE LUGAR PODERIA SER?

DIA APÓS DIA ...NÓS SUAMOS E TRABALHAMOS E LABUTAMOS... *POR QUE?*

ALGUM DE VOCÊS *GOSTA* DE ARRISCAR SUAS VIDAS PE-LA GOVERNADORA MILTON E SEUS AMIGOS?

ACHEI QUE NÃO.

ENTÃO POR QUE ***DEIXAMOS*** ELES FICAREM NO PODER? O PODER DELES... SOMOS ***NÓS***. VEMOS ELES SENTADOS NA VARANDA OLHANDO DE CIMA PARA O RESTO DE NÓS.

NÃO TEM QUE SER ASSIM. PODEMOS ESTABELECER NOVOS LÍDERES ... LÍDERES ***MELHORES.***

E PODEMOS FAZER RÁPIDA E PACIFICAMENTE. NÓS PODÍAMOS--

OH, MERCER...

...A GOVERNADORA MILTON VAI FICAR *TÃO* DESAPONTADA COM VOCÊ.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT: WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Dwight may be dead, but the repercussions of his death are only just beginning to be felt. Also... how about that Princess? Curious to know if her talk with Mercer changes the way any of you view her. I hope so, you semi-unfeeling fucks!!!

Coming in hot today for no good reason except it's Friday, I've got a cup of coffee, and I'm making comics. What's not to be amped about?! I have good feelings about this Letter Hacks. I've done a whole bunch of these and this one felt better than average.

Oh, man... let's dive right in!

Hello Kirkman and company!

First things first, Sean said "nobody is stupid enough to eat a fucking walker" but The Governor definitely did, and he said it tasted like shit. He was also stupid enough to fight Rick Grimes though so what can you do?

I stand corrected, but also, yeah, Governor was nuttier than squirrel shit.

I was a huge fan of issue 185, it hit a lot of high points. Rick talking about Andrea had me crying over my breakfast as well.

Dwight's little stunt was weird but the point was made. I loved when Rick visits him in jail and Dwight starts his speech only to get shut down. Nice to see Rick isn't blind to the Commonwealth errors and even more exciting to see Mercer's approval of Rick as a leader. (I thought we were heading to Rick V Mercer so this is a pleasant surprise!)

Thank you for the amazing work and keep at it!
Joshua Smith, NB, Canada

Rick is the absolute best at being pretty cool and genial, and then turning on an absolute dime to shut—shit—DOWN. Really something he's embraced since #127.

Wait... so my characterization IS consistent?! Whew!

Hey guys,

In response to Art's letter in issue #185 regarding his inquiry as to why walkers are edible for dogs and not humans; I believe this is because dogs possess a much smaller digestive tract and can process food much faster than us.

Carnivores like lions and tigers (Shiva!) can survive on a diet consisting of strictly meat because of the design of their bodies, if omnivorous creatures like ourselves were to attempt this, since the meat takes a lot longer to digest, this would eventually lead to cardiac problems, thus a balanced diet is recommended for a happier, healthier and longer life!

This is why I believe animals can snack on the uncooked (un)dead without suffering the same infectious repercussions that humans would.

Dennis Gereb
Göteborg, Sweden

I am no nutritionist, but this is at least interesting reasoning. It explains why they can process the meat, more than why it doesn't zombify them. Still—attempts at applying science to TWD will get printed.

To Robert Kirkman and team,

I have just finished issue 185 of TWD and I am writing to you about something particular. The child sex. My jaw dropped to the ground when Lydia licked Carl's eye socket and then had intercourse with him in issue 137 because they are both underage. I wasn't even sure if there was consent at first.

Then in the current issue, Sophia bitches about there not being any boys to have sex with. The fact that she is only 14 and wants to lose her virginity already encouraged me to write this. I don't know what kind of rules about sex have changed when the apocalypse started but I am a teenager and I'm not worried about doing the wild thing any time soon.

I know that you haven't done the wild thing because you call it the wild thing. That's no judgment on you having done the wild thing or not. Do the wild thing when you're ready because then that's all you're going to want to do for a while.

My question is what are your thoughts on the underage sex your characters are having and why are you having them do it? (Not accusing you of anything.)

Also, when will you have your first transgender character in your comic? I am a supporter of LGBTQA+ rights and I believe the zombie apocalypse is the perfect scenario for people to embrace and except who they really are. The example being someone who comes to terms with wanting to be the opposite character. Do you think you can squeeze the character in any time soon?

From your die hard fan

Matt Jarek
Milford, Massachusetts

As far as my thoughts on underage sex... I'm just aware that it exists. While it's perfectly normal for you to be a teenager not looking to have sex, surely you must have peers who are. All that said, I think it's pretty believable that people grow up faster in apocalyptic situations.

No plans for a transgender character right now, but that could change in the future. Stay

tuned. There is a great transgender character in SAGA, but you might not be old enough for that book yet.

I have been reading WD since issue 36 (Caught up with trades before). I've religiously watched every episode LIVE and not DVR'd (Most of the time). I thought it was time to write in and tell you I love you all. With Rick's last episode being followed up with another superb issue in #185, I just thought it was time. I do have ONE question that must be answered. Approximately how much time has passed from issue one to #185? I'm guessing 10 years? On the show... about 5 years before the obvious time jump we see in the tree episode trailer?

The comic is more than four years since #1, though closer to Year Five... if we're not there already. A lot of time's passed recently with every trip to the Commonwealth.

At some point I should work this out more... but in my mind it's been longer than five years since the comic started. I don't like to pin things down officially, but the first 12 issues alone could have been a year.

Could have, but totally weren't. If you follow the seasons, the bad stuff started happening late summer/early fall... and we're nearing the end of winter by #12. My secret timeline document knows ALL.

Also... I feel like I know the ending of the series. In fact I'm pretty sure I KNOW the ending. Therefore, I won't write it so this letter has a chance of being published.

Sincerely,
Dink in Missouri

BOLD PROCLAMATION!!!

I have zero clue what's coming issue to issue, so you must be Nostradamus, bro.

I promise you don't know the ending.

Dear Walking Dead,

Super rare variants? Don't you guys control the means for printing and distribution? Sounds like artificial scarcity.

Isn't every variant—and basically everything manufactured—controlled by their manufacturers? Yes, super rare variants were intentionally made scarce.

Kudos to your team for milking the property for all it's worth and jamming it into every medium possible (I'm still waiting for The Walking Dead: the flamethrower).

Honestly, this flamethrower idea isn't that far off. Give us a couple of years.

Jamming? You make it sound like a negative thing...

But the idea of super rare variant covers reeks of tactics that led to the comic industry crash in the 90s. I imagine that a good chunk of your sales come from digital comics, so the variant covers are really just targeting die hard fans who are close enough to a local shop to actually buy trades. It seems predatory against your fan base.

Physical sales still make up the majority of our monthly sales, which is true for every comic out there. We're very conscious of the impact of variants on the industry. It's something we try not to abuse, which sounds silly considering we just did variants every month on the regular series for the past year and ALSO 15 variants on reprint issues... and then custom store variants for comic shops. But... it was our 15TH ANNIVERSARY. We wanted to do something special for fans and retailers.

We've received overwhelmingly positive feedback and also sold a lot of comics. The 15th anniversary items were conceived to appeal to new and longtime readers; we didn't expect everyone to buy everything. Hardcore TWD fans will go out of their way to collect super rare variants, but it's ultimately every reader's choice to buy or not buy. We didn't even announce the super rare variants until orders were already in, so we weren't trying to pump retailers to over order, more trying to surprise fans who didn't know these variants existed until they opened their polybags. Whether you agree with it or not, there's a lot of thought put into every decision we do around here. Are we going to go all out again like this any time soon? Absolutely not.

But I guess if the market bears it, and you guys can cash in, why the fuck not?

I guess I just expected a little better from one of the most popular titles in the industry right now.

Not mad just disappointed,
Trevor Johnson
Oak Park, IL

While we are one of the most popular titles in the industry... the ones that are more popular, books from Marvel and DC, use variant covers WAY more. So that's an odd standard to hold us to. The new* Iron Man *series launched with something like 30 variant covers.

Now, while I'm not the biggest fan of the glut of variants or the common practices of today's market, I have to say that I understand it. And comic book COLLECTING is just as viable a use of this medium as reading is. It's okay to be a collector, it's fun, it's rewarding in its own way. It's NOT a bad thing to be a comic collector... I've bought more than a few comics over the years on the basis of collecting them. Hell, I own an entire short box of* Amazing Spider-Man *#344. What's up with that?!

First appearance of CARDIAC—that's what's up!

Hiya!

Long time fan. Second time writhing in. My first letter was an over analyze of the variant covers for Whisperer War, suffice to say my theory on Negan killing Dwight and betraying everyone did not come true, though I do like the direction you've taken Negan in the latest issues. (don't worry I'm done with the Negan talk)

Instead I wanted to ask about a couple things, when you originally wrote Dwight as a character did you always intend for him to be a sort of double agent type archetype, or did you have other plans with him at first? he was always such a hate-able fuck bag (but you just love to hate him). I think it's interesting how these kind of characters change as

the comics go on, Dwight has become one of my all time favorite characters and I love all the attention he's gotten in later issues.

With Love From Canada, Robin~

P.S. I know this is going to sound hella mushy and lame but issue 172 holds a special place in my heart now thanks to Yumiko and her "Watch how simple it is to come out" and "no one cares what you're like" attitude. I'm sticking to that moto as I begin transitional therapy and I wanted to say thanks for the words of wisdom and relatable characters to help me though these tough times, I look forward to the new issues. New characters and the new world order! and hey if you ever need a name for another lgbt character I've heard Robin makes for a pretty cute name.

I will keep that in mind, Robin! Thanks for your letter, and congratulations on the start of your journey. I'm very happy for you. That's awesome to hear, so thanks for sharing.

As for Dwight... I'd be lying if I said I knew where his character was going to go from his first appearance. I don't recall 100%, but I'm pretty sure I didn't know he was a double agent until I'd come up with that scene set at the Kingdom and needed a double agent to move things along. There are some characters where I have a plan for them and I'm just checking boxes as I write them issue to issue, and there are other characters where I could never foresee what the future held for them as they grow and change through the narrative. I never could have known how essential Eugene would become to the future of this book. When the characters surprise you... that's when the writing is the most fun.

Dear WD Crew,

"And no one is stupid enough to eat a fucking walker." Funniest thing I've read in awhile. Thanks, Sean.

The Governor was stupid enough, and I was stupid enough to forget that. Why don't we talk about other mistakes I made...

So it looks like Rick has got two hands as he's grasping Dwight's cell on the next to last page of #185. Since that's not possible, the only thing I can figure is it's some kind of nifty Walking Dead secret symbolism. I think I've got the meaning. Rick's right hand looks like a raised fist and the raised fist is usually meant as a symbol of defiance and solidarity. This is Robert's way of telling us that he will always defy the typical repetitive comic storyline and continue to bring us new and fresh product. That when we, The Walking Dead Family, a family made up of many different colors and cultures and beliefs, are united we are stronger and made better by this unity.

Do I get a No Pri...wait...what?

Sorry.

Rob Shelor
Roanoke VA

Rob, I appreciate you embracing the spirit of the No Prize (Rest In Great Power... Stan Lee) while everyone else just called me a dummy or asked to have my job. Mistakes were made, yes, but we're now hyper vigilant about Rick's hands to the point where we caught this from happening in a future issue BEFORE it went to print... though if Robert wants to chop off Rick's other hand to make my job easier, sorry, left hand... I mean, RIGHT hand... oh, fuck it.

I blame Charlie... I mean... how can you forget a guy is missing a hand? And it happens SO often. We've caught it more than a few times over the years... and it's slipped into a print more than a few times as well.

That's NOT in any way to let you off the hook, Sean. You suck.

I'm glad I have two hands so I can extend both middle fingers.

Hi Sean and Robert,

Can I share I love the ongoing development of Eugene's character? From his "walkie talkie failure" lowpoint and traumatic loss of Abraham and capture by the Saviors - to his creativity and inventiveness applied towards the creation of ammo to prep for AOW, his historical recreation of useful infrastructure in the communities and now an attempt to rebuild a locomotive for transport, he's really become the most indispensable character in the series IMO. I have also enjoyed seeing Eugene grow as a character, showing that he is more than just a smart, if a bit antisocial, member of the community. His relationship development and fallout with Rosita was great drama and now we're seeing the start of a Eugene & Stephanie hook up. Awesome!!! I don't recall seeing Letters about Eugene but I feel he is one of the most fascinating characters in the series.

All the best,
Tom McElroy
Austin, TX

To Eugene, the best of us!

I literally just mentioned him a few letters ago!

Dear Walking Dead Team,

First off, I just wanted to thank the folks at Skybound with the strength and force of a thousand suns, for agreeing to finish the Telltale Games fourth season! It means a ton to fans of the game, and to fans of the Walking Dead series in general. So a huge, sincere thanks for saving our beloved Clementine from the bottomless pit of an unfinished storyline!!

Oh, we're in the thick of it now! I just did a playthrough on 403 and even though I'd already read the script, there are some genuinely jaw dropping moments. By now the release date for that episode should be public (check @Skybound Games Twitter for latest news).

Now, for some character-based questions that everyone is wondering about but isn't willing to say (or maybe it's just me):

1. How did Jesus become so badass?? I know this has been asked before, but PLEASE address this at some point, otherwise I'll just assume that he's actually Jesus, since it seems to be the only current explanation for his demigod-like powers.

Uh... he's actually Jesus? Seriously though... he had a lot of training over the years. That's the only way to get badass. What the training was... maybe we'll see it eventually.

2. Not that it matters anymore, but how did Ezekiel keep his dreads so white? Was he wayyy older than he looked, or did he spend significant amounts of time on hair care & maintenance? It looked awesome as feck, but every time I saw it, I would ask myself, "How-? Why-? What-" So answers please!

That was actually birdshit. Lots and lots of it.

I'll leave it at that.

3. Now, a more serious question: Why is it that women are portrayed as somewhat sex-crazed in this series? It's always women who initiate sexual acts or kisses, women who cheat on their partner or "seduce" men in positions of power or strength, etc. I'm sure you mean well, but it comes across as some weird male fantasy. In real life, men are usually MUCH hornier than women, but this comic only seems to show lust in women or in creepy/rapey men. Even one of Michonne's first actions in the series was to go down on Tyreese! Also, much younger women are consistently attracted to older men, like Eugene and Stephanie's adorable but honestly out-of-the-blue attraction. I would appreciate it if y'all could switch this up a bit!

I don't think Stephanie is young. If anything, I'd say she and Eugene are both in their forties. As to your other question, I wouldn't say all women are sex-crazed in this comic. While there have been aggressive women at times... there have been many who weren't. Andrea wasn't sexual aggressive at any point.

(Though she and Dale had a healthy sex life.)

Maggie and Michonne's actions were very different and had different motivations. I see what you're saying though... but over nearly 200 issues we're going to see a lot of different characters behaving in a lot of different ways.

I also wanted you guys to know that this series has been a huge part of my childhood! I'm turning 21 this year, and I feel as if I grew up and matured along with Carl and Sophia. The way that everyone in this series overcomes hardships to create a better society has inspired me to study politics in college, to learn how to solve some of our society's problems as reflected by the smaller societies in the Walking Dead. Don't stop writing, or my little brother will never catch up with me!

Ada
Berkeley, CA

Thanks for writing in, Ada! I promise to keep you comfortably ahead of your brother for as long as I possibly can!

_____

In the letter column of #185, Kristoffer Infante didn't explain why he wanted the book canceled or rebooted after #200. I agree with you that rebooting the book is a terrible idea, but I thinking canceling the book is a good idea, and here's why.

We're doing this? Great—LET'S DO THIS.

SIGH.

There is only one plot in this book: Rick and Company meet another group of people, a fight ensues, Rick and Company win. That's it. That's all you ever write. It's either the Governor, or Negan, or the Whisperers, or the Commonwealth. But it's the same thing over and over and over. It's either blah, blah, blah day to day survival details, or blah, blah, blah politics.

You say this book is at its best when it doesn't feel like a zombie comic. I disagree 100 percent. There were no zombies in #185, and when it doesn't feel like a zombie comic, it's even more boring than usual.

I was working in the bedroom of 14 year old last weekend, installing some cabinets, painting, etc. He was watching TWD tv show. There was a great story about a young girl who liked zombies, who thought killing them wasn't always necessary, who murdered her younger sister, and who was consequently killed by an adult woman who realized this young girl was crazy and dangerous to everyone around her. You just don't see that kind of variety in the comic.

It's always blah, blah, blah.

At least the TV show has zombies. I remember when the comic went 9 months without any zombies in it. Boring.

So yeah, if this comic was canceled after #200, I wouldn't care, because I don't really care anymore anyway. The death of Andrea was the end of it for me. I just bought the last 12 issues because of the nice covers by Bill Sienkiewcz. I'm done being bored. No doubt you have something special planned for #200. Maybe I'll buy it, maybe I won't.

Right now my apathy runs pretty deep.

Danny the Mc

Well, should I even bother to respond since you won't be reading this?

First... that story you mention from the show is FROM THE COMIC! That happened in the comic, just in a slightly different way. So it's kind of odd to use that as a way of saying the show is better than the comic.

I've heard the "Oh, man... TWD just recycles the same story over and over again," complaint many times. And if you're not into the book anymore, that's fine, stop. I completely understand. Some people aren't up for the long haul. That's totally reasonable, and if #167 (the death of Andrea) was the end for you, I wholeheartedly thank you for the time you've devoted to this series up to that point.

BUT "meeting new groups and getting into conflicts with them" is... every... continuing story. It's every TV show. New enemies, new antagonists, new conflicts... and each of those conflicts are different in some way... and result in the characters learning new things and growing in new ways. The same way the conflict with The Governor and Woodbury is COMPLETELY different than the conflict with Negan and the Saviors... in almost every single way. If you think those two huge storylines are the same, this book just isn't for you. And that's fine!

_____

Didn't I say this would be a better than average Hacks? Next month, those ripples from Dwight's death? They keep spreading out. Plus, a character you know and love meets some characters you know and love—for the FIRST TIME.

-Sean Mackiewicz

It's gonna be great!

-Robert Kirkman